

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

June 17, 2004
1:30 p.m.

Colusa-Sacramento River State Park
Colusa, Ca.

Chair Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. at the above location, followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (12) members present.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Ben Carter	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Jim McKevitt
Cal DWR			Dwight Russell
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS			Darrin Thome
USCOE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)
Names listed in parentheses represent absences			
Cal DWR			Stacy Cepello
Manager Burt Bundy			
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary			

1. Unscheduled Matters: Landowners in the audience expressed concerns about public access to the river across Department of Fish and Game (DFG) lands, specifically an area on the west side behind Princeton. The same issue applied to a gravel bar where the access has been restricted. Paul Ward, DFG, offered to take their names to talk with them directly and try to answer their questions. Stacy Cepello, Department of Water Resources (DWR), also offered to provide some mapping that might help clarify ownership in that area.
Bill Borrer expressed concerns about a proposal being considered by the California Bay-Delta Authority and State Legislature to impose a fee on water users throughout the Central Valley to support the state share of the CALFED Bay-Delta program. Bill provided a copy of a letter signed by several representatives expressing their concerns to a financing option that would impose costs without regard to direct benefits. Diana Jacobs, DFG, noted there are several options on the table and there will be a lot of opportunity for input.
2. Consent Calendar - Ben Carter moved to adopt the April 15, 2004 minutes, second by Bill Borrer. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Agency Reports – Greg Werner announced the DFG Management Plan has been finalized and is being printed. The plan will be available on CD or hard copies – contact the SRCAF office if interested. DFG is posting signs so people can see what property belongs to the agency. Darrin Thome, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), reported on the CALFED ecosystem milestones evaluation. Information on the evaluation will be on their website; Darrin will email the address to the SRCAF staff for distribution. Darrin also discussed a committee that has been formed to look at the CVPIA Fish Screen Program and develop criteria on what diversions to screen. The committee is made of representatives from each agency and will look at biological issues and federal and state regulations in determining the threshold.
Stacy Cepello, Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported on a database for project tracking that has been developed. Because it is an interactive site, security issues have prevented it from being set up on a state website. They have decided to go outside the agency and contact web hosts for the project tracker. The site should be up next month.
4. Colusa Sub-reach Planning - TNC has received a grant to conduct a 3-year sub-reach planning project along the Sacramento River between Princeton and Colusa. The SRCAF was named as a partner in the project and will work with TNC to manage a public outreach process to involve a wide range of stakeholders. A Memorandum of Agreement has been developed to detail the collaborative partnership between TNC and the SRCAF. The project will work with stakeholders to identify concerns and try to address those concerns through the studies including looking at potential impacts from land use changes. Ben Carter moved to adopt the MOA between the SRCAF and TNC regarding the Colusa Sub-reach Study, second by Doug White. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. Board Committee Reports –

Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC) – Ben Carter reported on the June 9th meeting. The committee discussed the Legaci grant funding in the amount of \$15,000 for legal assistance to the LAC in the development of the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP). The group looked at prioritizing options on how to best spend the money, i.e. focusing on the Voluntary Alternate Dispute Resolution (VADR) process and self mitigation. The committee had also clarified the intent of the ad hoc committee when developing the VADR process versus the perspective of the other committee members. A meeting is being scheduled with the LAC Chair, members of the ad hoc committee (Jeff Sutton, Carol Wright, and Renee Hawkins) Darrin Thome ,USFWS, Paul Ward, DFG, and the solicitors from each of the agencies to discuss the VADR process from a legal and policy standpoint of the agencies. The LAC briefly discussed the definition of self mitigation as a net benefit that would accrue to the Conservation Area so that projects such as bank protection projects could move forward without mitigation.

At today's Board meeting Darrin Thome discussed the origin of self mitigation and early efforts to get the Conservation Area as a project in and of itself. He noted that mitigation banking

works best with large urban developments and that state and federal lands cannot be used for mitigation.

PILT/Economic Committee – The work being done in conjunction with the Working Landscapes Subcommittee is still in progress.

TAC – Stacy Cepello reported on the June 1st TAC meeting. The TAC continued discussion on the cross-boundary issues. He noted representatives from DWR are working with USFWS to develop some solutions to issues such as deferred maintenance of stream channels. A question was raised whether there was overlap between the TAC and LAC and if they are looking at the same issues. It was suggested there needed to be a programmatic approach to permit streamlining, noting the environmental documentation to do the Fremont Weir clean-out took one year.

Olen Zirkle, Ducks Unlimited, updated the TAC on the M&T project. A contract amendment has been submitted requesting an extension to do some additional studies. Dan Efseaff, River Partners, gave an update on the Riparian restoration planning and feasibility study for the Riparian Sanctuary, Llano Seco Unit. Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) discussed an acquisition of a portion of the Womble Ranch inside the levee in Colusa and Glenn Counties. Kelly Moroney, USFWS, reported on work being done on the Pine Creek Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge to improve drainage.

- *Drumheller Slough* - This project was reviewed at the TAC in March and again in April and found to be consistent with the Handbook guidelines. The project was carried over to today from the April 15th Board meeting to allow more time for the Board to review. At today's Board meeting a question was raised whether allowing natural processes will be a part of this project as recommended in the Handbook whenever possible. The USFWS has looked at the site, currently fallow, and determined weeds would take over so they did not feel that allowing natural processes to work here was viable. There was also a question about the economic impacts of the project which had an orchard on it when USFWS purchased the property. A question about zoning was not addressed on the project fact sheet. Dan Efseaff noted Ayres had done some additional analyses which showed a flood neutral design. He also mentioned it might be important to know why the people sold the property as there might be economic issues that are not being heard. The property is not in the Colusa Sub-reach study. Jim McKevitt moved to find the project consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook, second by Brendon Flynn. During discussion it was decided the project would not be held over to the next Board meeting. Bill Borrer expressed concerns about approving a CALFED funded project if water users are going to pay for it. Motion passed with 3 No votes – Bill Borrer, Ben Carter, and Shirley Lewis. *Note: At this time, this project is not proposed for CALFED funding.
- *Womble Acquisition* – Dawit Zeleke, reported on the acquisition of 307 flood-prone acres located inside the levee at River Mile 162. This project was also discussed at the June 1 TAC meeting and no concerns were noted. One of the adjoining landowners had questions about whether they could continue to drain their agricultural land and they had worked with the landowner to address that concern.

The project will be funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and The Packard Foundation. Brendon Flynn moved to find the project consistent with the guidelines of the handbook, second by Glenn Hawes. During discussion it was noted this is an acquisition only, the property is included in the Colusa Sub-reach Planning Study and TNC will not do restoration until after the study is completed. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

6. Executive Committee – Jane Dolan reported on the June 10th Executive Committee meeting held to discuss the governance issues for the organization. The committee looked at several options including adding a Board Development Committee to help with Board member orientation, developing criteria for a Board member appointment, developing language to help the decision-making process, and the possibility of changing Board appointments to January to better work with the counties' process.

- Nominating Committee Recommendations and Election of Officers – Bill Borror reported the nominating committee recommended the following slate of officers: Chair – Lynnel Pollock, Vice-Chair – Marc Faye, Secretary-Treasurer – Glenn Hawes. The recommendation for the Executive Committee: Lynnel Pollock, Marc Faye, Glenn Hawes, Brendon Flynn as landowner representative, Jane Dolan as public interest representative, Don Anderson, immediate past chair, and Diana Jacobs as agency representative. Doug White moved to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers, second by Russell Young. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. Don Anderson turned the meeting over to the new Chair who presided over the remainder of the meeting.

- CALFED Grant Extension – A grant amendment request was submitted to CALFED in July of 2003 for a 1-year extension. Funding was approved and the contract was extended to October, 2004. Staff is working on a grant amendment request for an additional two years to October, 2006 and the addition of a technical person to help with the monitoring and project tracking. This time extension would provide continuity of the program until the next Request for Proposal process.

Dwight Russell reported on an upcoming meeting with Lester Snow on June 22nd at 4:00 p.m. and extended an invitation to Board members who might want to attend.

7. Next Meeting Date and Location – The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 3:00 p.m. at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows. The Executive Committee will meet prior to the Board meeting to finalize recommendations on the governance issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. followed by a barbeque and boat tour. The boat trip provided Board members and invited guests the opportunity to look at the area of the river that will be the focus of a CALFED funded grant to TNC to study the Colusa-Princeton Sub-reach. The SRCAF will partner with TNC to jointly manage the outreach portion of the project for broad stakeholder involvement in the planning process.